

August 23, 1999

From: Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston  
To-. Distribution

Subj: COTP POLICY ON NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT DEVIATION  
REQUESTS

This policy letter outlines the requirements for requesting a deviation pursuant with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 164.53. This regulation requires persons directing the movement of self-propelled vessels 1600 gross tons or greater, to report or cause to be reported improperly operating navigation equipment. The specific navigation equipment items include; RADAR (including ARPA), radio navigation receiver (electronic positioning device), gyrocompass, echo depth sounding device, or steering gear. Enclosure 1 is the preferred method for Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston notification. However, if an alternative submission is to be used, all deviation requests to the COTP must include the following information:

- • Name an type of vessel, including official number
- • Vessel Agent name, address, and phone/fax number
- • Date/Time/Reason for the request
- • The vessel's estimated date/time of arrival and departure
- • Vessel's last port of call and next port of call
- • Intentions (who/when/where) on completing repairs

If a vessel's destination is Bayport or the Port of Houston, requests shall be submitted to Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston via facsimile at 713-671-5177. If a vessel's destination is in the Port of Galveston, Texas City, or Freeport, requests shall be submitted to Marine Safety Unit Galveston via facsimile at 409-766-3689.

Upon receipt of a deviation request, the Coast Guard will conduct the following

- • Review the vessel's request for content and conduct a review of the vessel's history
- • Determine any restrictions which may apply due to weather, sea conditions, anticipated traffic, time of day, or any other conditions/operations which may affect the safe navigation of the vessel requesting the deviation
- • Notify Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service Houston-Galveston and the Houston Pilots (or Texas City/Galveston, Freeport Pilots if MSU Zone) of he COTP imposed vessel restrictions

The COTP Houston-Galveston expects that the vessel will have the navigational equipment discrepancy corrected prior to departure from the COTP Houston-Galveston

Zone. When corrected, the COTP must receive written third party verification from the repair contractor to have the deviation rescinded and the vessel cleared to sail. The Coast Guard may also conduct a spot check examination to ensure proper function of the navigation equipment. Outbound deviations will normally not be granted by the COTP

Houston-Galveston unless all attempts have been made to fix the inoperable piece of equipment. This also required third party verification that the repairs cannot be completed during the vessel's stay in this zone.

For further information regarding this policy, contact the Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston at (713) 671-511 or the Marine Safety Unit at (409) 766-3690.

WAYNE D. GUSMAN  
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Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston